

# **8Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium**

## **Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday, January 15, 2014  
10AM – 11:30 AM  
Arcadia Lakes Town Hall  
6911 N. Trenholm Rd., Suite 2

*Type of Meeting:* Continuing Development of Stormwater Education Plan and Decision-Making for the Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium

*Meeting Facilitators:* Mary Caflisch, Clemson Carolina Clear & Chenille Williams, Richland County Stormwater Management

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10:00-10:05	Welcome & Meeting Purpose	Mary Caflisch
10:05-10:15	Outreach Activity Updates	Mary Caflisch
10:15-10:30	Activity Planning for Spring (festivals, events, etc.) and Brochure Swap	All Present
10:30-11:00	Richland County Stormwater PSAs	Chenille Williams
11:00 -11:25	Brainstorming: Outreach to Apartment Complexes	All Present
11:25-11:30	Wrap-Up	Mary Caflisch

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## **Attendance:**

Chenille Williams	Richland County Stormwater
Erich Miarka	Gills Creek Watershed Association
Frank Henning	Congaree National Park
James Howard	Congaree National Park
Chanda Cooper	Richland Soil & Conservation District
Christine Murphy	Town of Arcadia Lakes
Mary Caflisch	Carolina Clear

## **Minutes:**

The Meeting began with a review of recent and upcoming activities as well as ongoing projects followed by extensive discussion of the next year's activity schedule

### ***Recent Activities***

- Richland County Electronics Recycling – Oct. 12, Zion Mill Creek Baptist Church. 100 cars were served.
- Project Learning Tree Workshop – Oct. 12, USC, sponsored by Richland Conservation District
- Cary Lake Cleanup – Oct. 12, Decker Blvd.
- GCWA Guest Lecture for USC Students – Oct. 15
- Carolina Yards Presentation for Candy Tuft Garden Club – Oct. 15
- Soils Presentation for Pontiac Elementary – Oct. 16, Conservation District
- Rocky Branch Bash – Oct. 20, MLK Jr. Park
- Rooftop Rhythms – Oct. 24, Richland Mall, with GCWA
- Blythefest – Oct. 25 & 26, Blythewood
- Soil Health/Erosion/Composting Teacher Training at SC Montessori Alliance Conference – Oct. 26, Conservation District
- GCWA Presentation for Forest Acres Rotary Club – Oct. 30
- Soil Health/Erosion/Composting presentation for Joseph Keels Elementary – Nov. 6, Conservation District
- Feral Hog Management Workshop – Nov. 7, Conservation District (co-sponsored with Calhoun, Orangeburg, Bamberg Conservation Districts; held in St. Matthews)
- GCWA Adopt a Highway – Nov. 9, South Beltline Blvd.
- GCWA Annual Meeting – Nov. 14, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church
- Soil Health/Erosion/Composting presentation at Green Steps School Composting Workshop at Heathwood Hall – Nov. 14, Conservation District
- Enviroscape Presentation for Joseph Keels After-school Program – Nov. 20
- Enviroscape Presentation for Higher Heights Learning Academy – Nov. 25, Conservation District
- Enviroscape Presentation for Columbia Jewish Day School – Dec. 5
- Enviroscape Presentation for Pontiac Elementary Science Safari – Dec. 6
- Stormwater Presentation for Rice Creek Elementary – Richland County Stormwater Dept.

### ***Announcements***

- At the Thursday, December 5, 2013 Keep The Midlands Beautiful Green Gala, Gills Creek Watershed Association was awarded the Green Non-Profit Award.
- The Gills Creek Watershed Association received a nonpoint source pollution reduction grant from SC DHEC. This \$183,750 grant will be used to help reduce nonpoint source pollution

originating in the Rosewood Community, including a bioretention project at Owens Field Park. Fuss & O'Neill are producing the design for this installation. Preliminary testing shows the soil conditions to be suitable for bioretention. In February or March an open house will be held to involve stakeholders in the project. BMP field days will be held during the construction, with invitees to include developers and construction firms. This would be a good opportunity for monitoring. Mary Caflisch will ask Dr. Cal Sawyer at Clemson if there are any current research projects that this could be tied into.

- On November 4th, 2013, Congaree Riverkeeper, sent a Notice of Intent to Sue for Violations of the Clean Water Act to Carolina Water Service.
- Two winning student posters from the Richland County Conservation District's "Where Does Your Water Shed?" poster contest went on to win at the state level.

### ***Upcoming Activities***

- Gills Creek Watershed Association's Whole Foods 5% Day – Wednesday, January 15
- Green Congregations Drop In – Jan. 30, McGregor Presbyterian Church
- Project Learning Tree Workshop – Feb. 8, Benedict College, sponsored by Richland Conservation District
- GCWA Adopt a Highway – Feb. 8, South Beltline Blvd.
- Great Backyard Bird Count at Congaree National Park – Birding Basics workshop on Feb. 8 and bird count event on Feb. 15.
- Richland Backyard Landscaping Speaker Series – Thursdays in March, Richland County Public Library Cooper Branch
- GCWA Display Window at Mast General Store – March
- Enviroscape and Macroinvertebrates at St. John Neumann School – March 14, with RC Conservation District
- Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Sale – March 22, Gamecock Bi-Lo, Devine St.
- Guest lecture for USC Environmental Economics class – Gills Creek Watershed Association.

### ***Updates on Ongoing Projects***

Partners for Healthy Watersheds has its first two participating businesses: Forest Lake Presbyterian Church and Tree of Life Congregation. Mary has made contact with many other businesses, several of which expressed serious interest in the program. Someone asked if there had been any more discussion of the Blue Business program proposed by Sustainable Midlands, but no one had heard more about it recently.

Congaree National Park has developed a stream assessment protocol, a learning tool which looks primarily at habitat and physical features to determine the health of streams. One USC class has been using the protocol to assess downtown streams. Volunteer groups and staff have also been

conducting assessments within Congaree National Park. The Carolina Clear team will be participating in this project during their statewide team training in February. Chenille Williams mentioned an Adopt-a-Stream afterschool club that she knew of in GA. That might be an interesting use for this tool.

Chenille has been working with Richland County Floodplain Manager Andrea Bolling to develop outreach programs for the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) program in Richland County. Andrea and Chenille have put together an advisory committee that will meet in a couple of weeks. Erich Miarka said that Andrea mentioned to him a grant from FEMA, in which consulting firm AMEC will be looking at flood-prone properties that the County could purchase. This project will likely involve GCWA, as many of the properties will be within the Gills Creek Watershed. Chenille was unfamiliar with this grant, but said that she would follow up.

### ***Richland County Stormwater PSAs***

Mary played the four public service announcements that Richland County produced over the summer. The group discussed ways in which to use these in the upcoming year. First, Mary will try to get an estimate for purchasing rotations on cable TV, so this can be considered in budgeting for the next fiscal year. We will also investigate whether any stations offer free airtime for non-profits, and what the Richland County Public Information Office can do to help. Chenille thought that some stations plug in clips provided by Richland County. Mary will follow up with Justin in PIO. It would also be helpful to try to estimate how many will see the PSAs on various stations, in order to determine the effectiveness of TV advertising.

The easiest way to use these clips is to post them on YouTube and share them over social media. QR codes linking to videos can be put on flyers and other printed materials. It may also be possible to air the PSAs on local high school news shows. Mary will contact the school district media officers. Another possibility is to air them at the Nickelodeon Theater and other movie theaters. Edventure may also be able to use them in some capacity.

### ***Activity Planning for Spring***

The group reviewed a list of upcoming festivals and events to determine how we would participate in these. See the table below. Mary is committed to going to Sparkleberry Fair, Big Nosh, Earth Sunday at FLPC, and Richland Recycles Day. She is also planning to attend Rooftop Rhythms and the Arcadia Lake Town Picnic. Sparkleberry Fair is the biggest event on the list. Richland County and Carolina Clear will have a shared table. Gills Creek Watershed and the Conservation District are also planning to attend. GCWA did not receive an invitation. Mary will copy Erich and Chenille when confirming her attendance. At this time, no one is planning to attend Farmville at EdVenture. Rocky Branch Watershed Alliance usually attends Olympifest. RCSC presence at the other events is uncertain at this time, but Mary will keep the group informed as these dates get closer.

Two large events that need to be scheduled are the Pesticide/Herbicide/Fertilizer Conference and the Industrial High Risk Conference. Richland County has coordinated these events in the past, assisted by Mary. It was suggested that we provide an opportunity at one or both of these events for people to drop off pesticides or other household hazardous waste. However, collections for these materials are available at Richland Recycles Day, so that is probably not necessary. Chanda Cooper would like to be involved in the PHF conference. Congaree National Park is interested in a workshop on herbicides for controlling invasive plants, either as part of the PHF conference, or as a separate workshop.

Erich Miarka had a few other activities to add to the list that GCWA will be hosting. Their annual Wine for Water fundraiser will be in April, and their Urban Paddle event will be in May. GCWA is also working with Richland County Public Library for a presentation on the history of Gills Creek. The library has a number of historic photos of the watershed. Author and historian Warner Montgomery will speak at the event.

### ***Outreach to Apartment Complexes***

We discussed ways that the consortium could reach out to apartment complexes. The three targeted messages for this audience are reducing fats, oils, and grease (FOGs) down the drain, pet waste, and storm drain marking. It was agreed that the property management companies should do storm drain marking, or at least be directly involved. We need a separate approach for storm drain marking at apartments as compared to other areas in the community.

Although Bill Stangler was not able to attend, he spoke to Mary prior to the meeting about Congaree Riverkeeper's current efforts to work with apartment complexes related to the maintenance of their sanitary sewer systems. SCDHEC has special regulations for what it

categorizes as Satellite Sewer Systems, in which an owner (such as an apartment complex) owns and operates a sanitary sewer system that discharges into a separate sanitary sewer system owned by someone else (i.e. a larger utility). Owners of these systems are responsible for operation and maintenance of these systems and are required to promptly report overflows. This includes providing information to residents using the system. Bill is using the requirements of the Satellite Sewer Systems program as a platform to communicate with apartment complexes, many of which are unaware that these rules exist and apply to them. Bill has a short list of complexes that he will be working with initially. This list was developed based on proximity to water bodies.

Mary roughly estimated that there are around 250 apartment complexes in Richland County based on search results from websites like [www.apartmentfinder.com](http://www.apartmentfinder.com). With so many apartments, the consortium needs a way to select a priority subset to target for outreach efforts. It was suggested that we target student based apartments. Students are more likely to get involved in their community. Mary asked is the county had a list of apartments from which they had received complaints related to water quality. Chenille said that Richland County Stormwater does not have a list of complaints related specifically to apartments. We could map clusters to identify groups of apartments that are close to each other and do combined outreach programs for those groupings. We could also target complexes according to the management company. Many companies manage multiple apartment complexes, not just one.

It was stated that Lexington County and City of Columbia's "Trash the Poop" campaign is going well. That campaign provides free pet waste stations to participating apartment complexes, one per complex. The stations are built by kids from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). They can be purchased for \$75. The current design does not include a trash can. If these are used, apartments must be encouraged to provide their residents with outdoor trash cans. This might also reduce littering. Sometimes it can be hard to get stations from DJJ because of logistical issues with those students. Other options for having the stations constructed might include high school shop classes, the Heyward Career Center or Midlands Technical College.

Several ideas were proposed for outreach methods. Educators could sit at mail stations and hand out information to residents as they come by. Education or a volunteer activity could be coupled with a party or something with food to attract residents. We could create posters with QR codes linking to websites with more details on FOGs. This would be especially useful in student apartments. We could put up pet waste flyers in leasing office. Chanda suggested that the flyers have tear offs. She got the idea from a flyer that she saw which read at the bottom "Take what you need" and had (instead of a phone number) words like "peace" and "nutrition." Our flyers could be similar and say things like "clean water" or "fishable streams" with contact information on the back. This would catch people's attention with its creativity. Apartment complex residents can be a hard audience to reach, but these ideas will get us started.

With no further business the meeting concluded at 11:40. The next RCSC meeting will be April 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:30 at the Arcadia Lakes Town Hall.

### Schedule of Spring Activities, Festivals and Events

Activity Title	Date	Time	Location
Festivals			
Springtime in the Garden	3/22/13	9am-4pm	Riverbanks Zoo
Bark to the Park	4/5/13	9am-12pm	Finlay Park
River Rocks	4/12/14		Riverfront Park
Party for the Planet	4/26/14	10am-3pm	Riverbanks Zoo
Olympiafest	4/26/14	10am-5pm	Olympia
Sparkleberry Fair	4/26/14	9am-5pm	Sandhill REC
Earth Sunday	4/27/14		Forest Lake Presbyterian Church
Big Nosh	5/4/14		Tree of Life
Richland Recycles Day	5/16/14		State Fair Grounds
Rooftop Rhythms	TBA		Richland Mall
Farmville	TBA		EdVenture
Arcadia Lake Town Picnic	May		Tree of Life
Events			
Backyard Landscaping Series	3/6/14	6-7pm	Cooper Library
Backyard Landscaping Series	3/13/14	6-7pm	Cooper Library
Backyard Landscaping Series	3/20/14	6-7pm	Cooper Library
Backyard Landscaping Series	3/27/14	6-7pm	Cooper Library
Rain barrel sale	3/22/14	9am-1pm	Gamecock Bi-Lo
Envirothon	5/2/14		Sandhills REC
Pesticide/Herbicide/Fertilizer conference	TBA		
Industrial conference?	TBA		